

CLAIM LISTING

1-20. (canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A communications apparatus comprising:

a communication network configured to handle packet-based traffic;

a voice processor coupled to the communication network;

a control processor configured to assign a queue priority to a communication signal, the communication signal in transit between the communication network and the voice processor, wherein the queue priority is determined at least in part according to whether the communication signal is a standard call mode or a bypass call mode, wherein the standard call mode comprises communication signals that are either decoded or encoded by a transcoder and the bypass call mode comprises communication signals that are neither encoded nor decoded by the transcoder.

22. (Previously presented) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the voice processor is configured to insert a control flag into a signal delivered to the control processor, where the control processor utilizes the control flag to determine whether the call is one of a standard call mode and a bypass call mode.

23. (canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the communication signals that are either decoded or encoded by the transcoder are one of mobile-to-landline and landline-to-mobile calls and the communication signals that do not require encoding and decoding are mobile-to-mobile calls.

25. (Previously presented) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the queue priority comprises a modified FIFO queue wherein communication signals having a control flag indicating a bypass mode call are placed at the bottom of the modified FIFO queue.

26-29. (canceled)

30. (New) A method comprising:

determining a queue priority for a communication signal based at least in part according to whether the communication signal is a standard call mode or a bypass call mode, wherein the standard call mode comprises communication signals that are either decoded or encoded by a transcoder and the bypass call mode comprises communication signals that are neither encoded nor decoded by the transcoder;

assigning the queue priority to the communication signal, the communication signal in transit between a communication network and a voice processor.